



NORTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT *of* HEALTH

NEWS RELEASE

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Employees of State Health Department Make Sizeable Contribution to Smith Gate Clinic

BISMARCK, N.D. – North Dakota Department of Health employees recently contributed \$2,744 to support the efforts of the Smith Gate Children's Burn Clinic in Iraq, according to State Health Officer Terry Dwelle, M.D.

At the department's annual employee meeting in December, Dr. Craig Lambrecht, chief field medical officer for the Department of Health, spoke about his experiences at the Smith Gate Clinic while serving as a physician with the North Dakota Army National Guard in Iraq. He explained some of the challenges faced by U.S. military medical workers who donate their time to the Smith Gate Clinic. He also related how thankful the parents of sick and injured children are for the treatment their children receive.

"Parents everywhere love their children," Lambrecht said. "Because this is the only children's burn clinic in Iraq, people come from far away to seek treatment for their children, some from as far away as Syria and Iran. Their injuries are not related to the war but to everyday contact with flammable substances like diesel-fuel generators and propane cooking stoves."

At the end of the meeting, State Health Officer Terry Dwelle invited department employees to make a donation to the clinic, or to any charity of their choice during the holiday season. Donations to the Smith Gate Clinic from nearly 300 department employees totaled \$2,744.

"North Dakota Department of Health employees are some of the most giving people I know," Dwelle said. "They work hard every day to ensure that the people of North Dakota have the opportunity to enjoy healthy lives and to live in a healthy environment. And now they have given some sick and injured Iraqi children the opportunity to receive needed medical care. I am so proud of the generosity and compassion of my colleagues at the Department of Health."

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According to Lambrecht, the donation will be used to bring two severely injured Iraqi children to the United States for medical care that can't be provided in Iraq.

"I want to thank the employees of the North Dakota Department of Health from the bottom of my heart," Lambrecht said. "Their generosity will make a huge difference in the lives of two Iraqi children, who now have the chance to receive state-of-the art medical care."

For more information, contact Loreeta Canton or Stacy Eberl, North Dakota Department of Health, at 701.328.2372 or lcanton@nd.gov.

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